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MANCHESTER MAN SENTENCED IN ECSTASY RING

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono today announced that Peter Ramos, age 24, of Manchester, NH, was sentenced to a seventy-seven (77) month term of imprisonment, followed by a four (4) year period of supervised release, for his involvement in an Ecstasy ring operating in and around Manchester, New Hampshire. The sentence was the result of a six-month investigation conducted by the New Hampshire State Police and the Manchester, New Hampshire Police Department which revealed that Ramos, his wife, Stephanie Douglas-Ramos, age 25, of Manchester, New Hampshire, and Juan Costillo, age 32, of Manchester, New Hampshire, were large-scale MDMA (3,4 methylene dioxymethamphetamine (a/k/a Ecstasy)) suppliers in Manchester, New Hampshire. As a result of the investigation, Peter Ramos, Stephanie Douglas-Ramos and Juan Costillo were charged in a four count Indictment, returned on February 14, 2002, with engaging in a conspiracy to distribute MDMA and with distribution of MDMA. Costillo entered guilty pleas to the United States' Indictment and is scheduled to be sentenced in May, 2003. Douglas-Ramos is scheduled to proceed to trial in April, 2003.

The prosecution was the result of a joint investigation between the New Hampshire State Police Narcotics Investigation Unit, the Manchester, New Hampshire Police Department and the United States Attorney's Office. United States Attorney Colantuono commended the investigation, stating: "The State Police Narcotics Investigation Unit and the Manchester Police Department have a long and successful working relationship with this office in bringing the largest and most dangerous drug defendants to justice. This case is another example of these agencies working together to make the streets of Manchester safer." The prosecution was handled by Assistant U. S. Attorney Terry Ollila.